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April 1, 1999

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The Honorable Dan Burton, Chairman
House Government Reform And Oversight Committee
c/o Milt Copulos/Beth Clay
Room 2157 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Burton:

Again, the Food And Drug Administration has demonstrated that it is an agency that is out of control. Not content with violating the rights of private citizens to access medical treatments of their choice, now the FDA treats our elected representatives with scorn and contempt.

Last August, you and four other Representatives specifically asked the FDA's Dr. Yetley not to include "Risk Assessment" verbiage from the U.S.'s comments to the Codex, specifically, to Agenda Item 5 "Vitamins And Minerals". Dr. Yetley blatantly disregarded your request, and forced journalists attending the Codex meeting to turn off their camcorders. It is the strategy of the FDA to "harmonize" its rules and regulations with that of the Codex under the veil of secrecy.

The last time I checked, it was Congress that made and approved treaties, not unelected civil servants like Dr. Yetley. It is this arrogation of constitutional power by a government agency that truly concerns me, the wrongheadedness of the proposed limitations on maximum vitamin doses notwithstanding. If the FDA wants to implement limits on vitamins and supplements, it should do so in the forum of an open domestic debate, and not by engaging in an end-run with an unelected multinational organization like the Codex Alimentarius.

If the Internal revenue Service unilaterally wrote tax regulations without Congressional approval or public debate for the purpose of "harmonizing" U.S. tax law with international standards, the public outcry would shake the rafters on Capitol Hill. Perhaps the time has come to impose on the FDA the solution that Congress arrived at for the abuses of the IRS: Radical reorganization and the creation of an oversight board composed of all interested stakeholders, the voting public included.

I trust that you will hold public hearings about this issue where the FDA will be forced to account for its policies.

Sincerely yours,

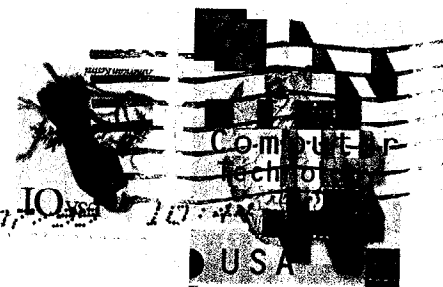


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